

Serial No. 10/686,659

Attorney Docket No. 03-037

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending. Claim 7 has been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 7-9 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were said to be allowable if written in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7. Thus, claim 1 is essentially claim 7 written in independent form, and claim 1 should be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, claim 7 has been canceled, and the dependencies of claims 8, 9, and 13 have been changed to claim 1.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hara. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7, which was said to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 1 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 4, and 6 depend on claim 1 and are thus also considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 5 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a). The applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn because claims 2, 5 and 10-12 depend on claim 1, which, as mentioned above, is considered to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 2, 5, and 10-12 are likewise considered to be in condition for allowance.

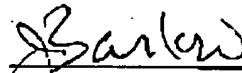
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In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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